



Nearly a quarter of all Canadian workers are in low paid jobs. Work should not be a path to poverty. It is time to raise the minimum wage.

Canada can afford an increase, as the rich are getting richer and the majority of Canadians are standing still. Over the 30 years from 1981 to 2011, real median wages (allowing for inflation) for full-time workers have only increased by \$2 an hour. Meanwhile the richest 1% take ever more of the wealth of society.

It is claimed that low paid workers are mostly young people working in mom and pop stores. This is far from the reality across Canada. Only 29% of minimum wage workers are employed in businesses with less than 20 staff. Nearly half of all minimum wage workers are employed by businesses employing over 500 people. Big business tries to hide behind the small business lie.

Many small businesses already pay their workers far more than the minimum. They know good staff is key to their success. Raising the minimum wage improves quality of work, reduces employee turnover and makes for a better workplace environment – all features valued by small business.

Fight for a \$15 Minimum Wage for All Continued from page 1

The people who would benefit from a \$15 minimum wage are mainly adults: women and people not studying. People aged 25 or older are 59% of those earning below \$15. Women workers are 59% of low paid workers. Only 20% of all workers earning below \$15 are in school or university.

There is no good evidence that raising the minimum wage destroys jobs. If low-income people get a raise, they will spend it locally, providing more business for local stores. In contrast, cutting taxes on the super-rich, as Canadian governments have done for the last 20 years, does not go back into the local economy.

The present minimum wage rates across Canada range from \$10.30 in New Brunswick to \$12.50 in the North West Territories – all need to be increased.

The new Liberal government has talked about tackling poverty in Canada. A key part of such a strategy would be to raise the minimum wage. If there was a Federal minimum wage of \$15 this would benefit directly over 100,000 workers and add to pressure on the provinces to step up. But the Liberals opposed this, perhaps as the previous Liberal government abolished the Federal minimum wage.

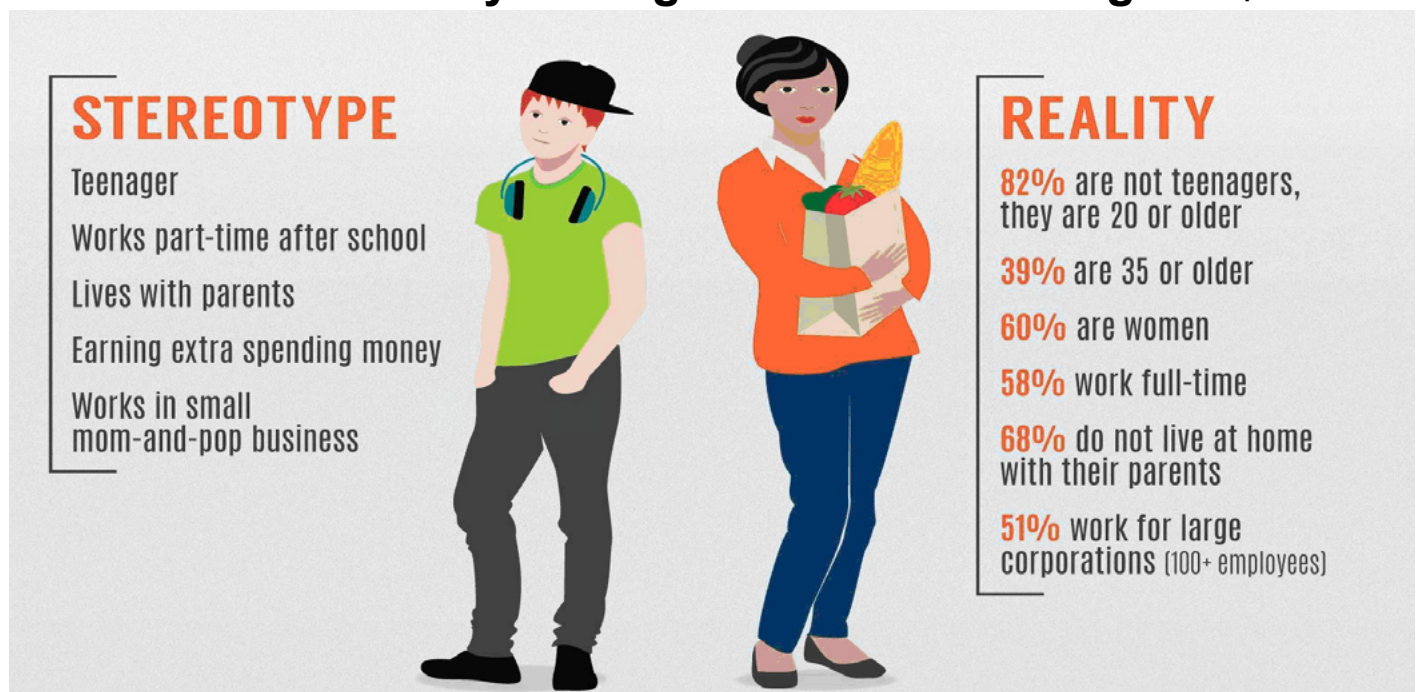
If we want a raise, we will have to organize for it. That is what is happening across Canada.

Canadian workers are taking inspiration from the victories in the US. The first victory was in 2014 in Seattle, led by Socialist Alternative's Councillor Kshama Sawant, which will increase the wages of Seattle workers by \$3 billion in the next ten years. From Seattle, the gains have spread across the US to San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and more.

In Alberta's election the NDP campaigned for \$15 an hour by 2018 – and won. It is true there have been recent hints of backsliding. The unions and community activists in Alberta need to build a powerful campaign to ensure the NDP does not retreat.

There are now campaigns for \$15 in BC, Ontario, Québec and Nova Scotia. These involve unions, low paid workers, anti-poverty activists and social justice movements. At this stage, these campaigns are mainly raising awareness and building support. In order to win, the campaign should strengthen roots in workplaces and communities with the aim of mobilizing job action for \$15.■

Who would Benefit by raising BC's minimum wage to \$15?



Thanks to Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Aboriginal Women Deserve Justice

By Leslie Kemp and Carol-Anne Hudson



When he was Prime Minister, Stephen Harper said of the 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across Canada “It isn’t really high on our radar, to be honest.” The Conservatives repeatedly rejected calls to establish a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women. Now that the Liberal government has announced a national inquiry, it is critical that it investigates the underlying causes of violence against Aboriginal women.

Violence against Aboriginal women is indisputable. Aboriginal women represent only 4.3 per cent of the female population – but 16 per cent of female homicide victims. During the last 25 years 1,181 Aboriginal women and girls have been murdered or reported missing. Many of these cases have not been solved. Aboriginal women aged 25 to 44 are five times more likely to suffer a violent death than other women in Canada. If women and girls in the general Canadian population had gone missing or been murdered at the same rate, the Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) estimates the country would have lost 18,000 Canadian women and girls since the late 1970s.

In 2013, Human Rights Watch documented RCMP violations of the rights of Indigenous women and girls as well as allegations of rape and sexual assault by RCMP officers in northern BC. More recently, reports of police sexual violence towards Aboriginal women emerged in Val d’Or, Quebec. Such incidents compound the failure of the police to protect women and girls from violence.

Root Causes from a Marxist Perspective

As Marxists, we want to know the reasons behind this

violence. We believe it is rooted in the structures of settler society, which are based on patriarchy, class division, and exploitation - all inherent in capitalism.

Aboriginal women face oppression on two counts: as women and as Aboriginal people. The ongoing legacy of colonialism in Canada is the major cause of their oppression. Aboriginal women have higher rates of poverty and unemployment, poorer physical and mental health, lower educational attainment, and less access to affordable housing than non-Aboriginal women.

“In a society where women are devalued and Aboriginal people are dehumanized, Indigenous women are the lowest of the low on a scale of who matters and who doesn’t,” said Lavell-Harvard, NWAC President.

Socialists are Allies in Struggles for Justice for Aboriginal Women

Through the Sisters in Spirit initiative, Aboriginal women are leading the way to identify the causes, circumstances, and roots of violence that have led to the disappearance and death of so many Aboriginal women and girls. Likewise, the Idle No More movement continues to mobilize Aboriginal people and their allies to fight for justice for Aboriginal women and men.

Socialists are allies in these struggles. We can stand side-by-side with Aboriginal women to peacefully protest and challenge state power that maintains the rule of the rich elite over poor Indigenous communities. Together, the masses can take power from the exploiting class and transform the rule of the few into true democracy. ■

Refugees and Homeless All Need Affordable Housing

By Jim Sugiyama and Martin Lebrun

The recent influx of Syrian refugees has touched off a divisive dialogue, centred on the plight of homeless Canadians versus the need to house the newcomers. It is an important dialogue, but it misnames the protagonists in this struggle for resources that are seen as limited.

Canada Has No National Housing Strategy

The Liberals abolished federal support for building social and affordable housing in the 1990s, leading to today's crisis of homelessness and lack of affordable housing. Over 35,000 Canadians are homeless on any given night, while over 235,000 Canadians experience homelessness in a year. Meanwhile, one in five Canadian renters are spending more than half their income on housing, putting them at high risk of becoming homeless.

Much of Canada's social housing stock dates back several decades, when the federal government made agreements to finance low-cost housing (social housing, non-profit, Co-op, etc.). Most of these agreements are set to expire over the next few years, ending \$1.7 billion in annual funding from Ottawa and putting 365,000 households at risk.

Building the Homes We Need

It is wrong to pose the issue in adversarial terms – of Canadian homeless versus newcomers escaping a brutal war. The real struggle here is of workers for their collective right to shared resources - the 'Commons'. Those unable to afford housing are the collateral damage of decades of austerity. And refugees are victims of a war that is not of their making. Both groups have been displaced and ignored.

Yet, the causes of their plights are inextricably linked to an economic system that puts profits before people's needs: neo-liberalism in Canada and imperialism internationally, displacing millions.

Canada has more than enough resources to house both current homeless people and new arrivals. Over the last 20 years, the priorities of Liberal and Conservative governments have been clear: handouts to the rich rather than homes. A massive National Housing

Program would create both affordable housing and well-paid, union jobs.

Labour, social justice campaigners, First Nations, refugees and progressives need to organize a sustained movement against corporate politics to make affordable housing a reality for all in Canada. ■

Keep Hydro Public No to Liberal Sell-Off

By Jim Katter

The Ontario Liberal government has started to privatize Hydro One, the publicly owned electricity utility. Premier Wynne plans to sell off 60% of it to provide the government with a short-term windfall of about \$9 billion. However, it may well become 100% private, as happened with past 'partial privatizations' of Air Canada and CNR.

All of the independent officers of the Provincial Parliament have condemned the sale, as it will cost the people of Ontario money with higher bills and a loss of \$750 million in provincial revenue annually. It will also mean a poorer service and remove Hydro from public oversight.

Privatized utilities cut jobs and wages of employees, cut corners on safety and investment, and jack up charges to users. The only ones who benefit are the top managers and the shareholders.

Electricity and other necessities should be publicly owned and democratically run to meet the needs of society and the environment. ■



Trans-Pacific Partnership: More of the Same or Worse?

By Leslie Kemp

Is Canada about to sign on to yet another trade deal that gives powers to corporations at the expense of human needs, the environment and democracy? The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) would surpass the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in giving powers to corporations. During the federal election, then Prime Minister Harper announced that Canada had signed on to the secretly negotiated TPP.



Médecins Sans Frontières says that the TPP is on track to become the most harmful trade pact ever in restricting access to medicines in developing countries.

This deal should not be signed. It is not redeemable. It needs to be scrapped. Here's why.

The US government met in backrooms with their corporate friends to develop the agreement. This so-called "trade deal" would create the largest trading bloc in the world. Led by the United States, the partnership includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. Thailand, the Philippines and South Korea are also interested in joining.

Blayne Haggart, assistant professor at Brock University, describes the deal as "a new global economic framework, driven primarily by US interests and US power." He argues that it is not primarily about trade, as "calling the TPP a free-trade agreement overplays its benefits, plays down its problematic aspects and fundamentally misunderstands what the deal is actually about."

If not trade, then what is this agreement about?

Only 2 of 26 chapters have to do with trade, according to the Council of Canadians. The other 24 chapters deal with how governments regulate corporate activity, what Crown corporations can and cannot do, how long pharmaceutical patents or copyright terms should last, how the Internet is governed, protocols for the sharing of personal information across borders, regressive banking and taxation rules, and procedures for compensating a company or investor when environmental or public health policies interfere with profits.

This agreement's purpose, as with previous so-called trade agreements, is to create a friendly environment for investors by restricting what governments can regulate. The TPP is similar to other such agreements, while taking society further down the path to "neo-liberal nirvana".

Marxists oppose both free trade and protectionism, as neither challenge the capitalist exploitation of workers.

The new federal government pledged to "hold a full and open public debate in Parliament to ensure Canadians are consulted on this historic trade agreement." However, the Liberals supported previous Free Trade deals despite promising to scrap or change them. How they deal with the TPP may be one of their first real tests: will Canada sign onto this neo-liberal agenda or not? ■

What is Neo-Liberalism?

Over the last 30 years, it has become the main global economic policy. Its core aim is to increase the wealth and power of capital compared to labour.

Key aspects include:

- Reducing regulations on corporations
- Weakening unions and reducing wages
- Cutting public spending on social programs and infrastructure
- Privatizing public services
- Cutting taxes on the rich and corporations

Liberal Honeymoon: How Long?

Most Canadians breathed a sigh of relief with the defeat of the Tories – a dark cloud was blown away.

Going into the election most Canadians wanted more than to just Stop Harper, they wanted hope and change. This is part of a growing international mood to reject austerity and neo-liberalism, as shown by the support for Sanders in the US and Corbyn in Britain.

The Liberals, far more successfully than the NDP, presented themselves as the party that would make real change. Harper had attempted to change the nature of Canada but, although he did much damage, he did not fundamentally change Canada nor did he inflict any major defeats on the working class.

The new Liberal government has made many general promises on employment, inequality and global warming. They have rapidly carried out some important, but inexpensive and quick, reforms including calling an inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and restoring the long form census. Decisions on more difficult issues of workers' living standards, public services and the economy, lie ahead.

Canada feels like a country in a dream with a mood of optimism and confidence, with one of the few governments worldwide not talking of austerity and tough choices. Trudeau was the first prime minister in nearly 60 years to speak at the Council of the Canadian Labour Congress. Foreign media have been full of positive reports about the newly elected government. Support for the Liberals has increased since the election, now running at over 50%, with the NDP and Tories both losing support.

However, turning rhetoric and a mood into reality requires action. The government has made fine speeches on climate change – but what about the actions? The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a perfect Harperite policy, giving even more powers to corporations – what will the Liberals do?

The Liberals have two faces. Past Liberal governments introduced most of the reforms of the 20th century including comprehensive pensions, unemployment insurance, family allowances, better union rights and public health. However, this was in a different political era when capitalism was forced by mass



movements to concede reforms.

In this present honeymoon, the Liberals' other face has largely been forgotten.

As the party of big business – of Bay Street – they have attacked democratic and union rights. Pierre Trudeau proposed the last official attempt to 'assimilate' Indigenous peoples with the 1969 White Paper. He used the War Measures Act in 1970, the only time in peacetime, to put troops on the streets of Québec, suspend democratic rights and carry out widespread arrests. Just last year, they voted in favour of the deeply undemocratic Bill C-51.

The present Liberal government says it will run a deficit for a few years, to pay for investment in infrastructure and return to a balanced budget in 2019.

The drop in oil prices, which shows no sign of ending soon, drags down the Canadian dollar, reduces employment and hits tax revenues. Clouds on the horizon are the slowdown of the world economy and the huge burden of personal debt. Balancing the books will need a mix of tax increases and spending cuts. The last

the Election

and Bill Hopwood



“The Liberal Government faces looming problems including world economic slowdown, falling oil prices and declining \$. There are looming battles with workers, Indigenous peoples and environmentalists.”

Liberal governments of Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin carried out the biggest attack on public services of any recent government while cutting taxes for the well off and corporations. Transfer payments were cut forcing most provinces to end all social and affordable housing programs. This is the root of Canada’s present housing crisis.

The Liberals claim they will restore middle class incomes. However, they will not reverse the several decades of stagnant real income, the enormous shift of wealth from working people to the rich, and the tax giveaways to big business resulting in cuts and higher charges for public services. When they face economic problems or seek a balanced budget, they will probably follow the same path as Chrétien and Martin.

It is clear the Liberals will not deliver good secure jobs and high quality public services. However, there is an opportunity for campaigns, unions and social justice activists to step up the pressure on the government to act. We can win victories and help build a stronger movement for even greater future success. ■

Another NDP Failure: Why Yet Again?

The NDP learns nothing from its defeats. After the disastrous election results in BC, Ontario and Nova Scotia the Federal NDP used the same approach – no radical policies and playing it safe – and even some of the same organizers. It had the same result, a major defeat – from 103 seats to only 44 seats in an expanded House of Commons.

Where is the post-mortem inside the NDP, the questioning, the critical reflection among both parliamentarians and activists? With one or two exceptions, the federal defeat was met with a huge shrug of ‘oh well, it could have been worse’. There has been no widespread questioning of Mulcair’s leadership or his performance during the campaign, certainly not within the federal caucus.

The NDP, provincially and federally, has steadily moved to the right with little resistance from the membership. Provincial NDP governments of the last 25 years demonstrated this trend by carrying out pro-business austerity measures.

Many have correctly taken heart with Corbyn’s election as leader of the Labour Party. However, there are now two Labour Parties at war with each other within one party; this cannot continue for long.

There are reasons to doubt that a strong radical Corbyn type movement will develop in the NDP, including:

- Quiet resignation over the election defeat
- Lack of serious resistance when the NDP dropped its socialist aim
- Lack of an prominent left wing figure to lead a fight
- Low likelihood of a large influx of new members if there was a challenge

It is even less likely that such a movement would gain the leadership of the NDP.

Socialist Alternative would welcome the formation of a strong left wing political movement. However, based on the NDP’s recent history and the mood of party members, we believe the best use of people’s valuable time is outside the NDP, building organizations and campaigns to fight for real gains and raising the idea of socialism.

As struggles grow on a host of issues, we fully engage in these, and argue the case for socialism and for the need to build a fighting workers’ party. ■

US Politics Shifts Left Despite Reactionary Bluster

By Patrick Ayers (US Socialist Alternative)



Saunders and Sawant

Donald Trump won't be next US president

His presidential campaign is whipping up racism, sexism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia while inciting a dangerous right-wing backlash that must be resisted. But national polls show enormous opposition to Trump, despite his popularity among mostly white male Republican voters.

In fact, the US population is rapidly moving to the left with increased support for raising the minimum wage and taxing the rich, even among Republican voters. The millennial generation (18-34 year olds) who grew up with the Iraq War and the Wall Street crisis is helping drive this shift. Over 70% of millennials said they would vote for a socialist for president in a Gallup poll – *before* the popularity of self-avowed, democratic socialist, presidential candidate Bernie Sanders skyrocketed. Bernie trounces Trump in head-to-head polls.

Black Lives Matter is winning

A July 2015 Pew poll found 59% of people thought more needed to be done to fight racism, up from 46% in July 2014. This issue is not going away any time soon. The Chicago political establishment is in crisis following a recent cover-up of the police murder of Black teenager Laquan McDonald. Baltimore, Cleveland, Minneapolis, and many other cities face ongoing protests.

Socialism haunts the US elite

Bernie Sanders' campaign is introducing millions to socialism - the most looked-up word of 2015, according to Merriam-Webster. His campaign is giving left-wing expression to the massive discontent in US society and has the potential to help ignite a wider social movement.

A Sanders victory would be a huge step forward, but he is unlikely to win the Democratic Party nomination. The corporate-dominated Democrat machine will do everything to block him and the radical reforms he advocates.

If he loses the primary, it would be a step backward for Sanders to endorse Clinton as he has said he would do. This would demobilize his supporters and channel them behind another corporate candidate.

Sanders could do more by running as an independent and consolidating his movement into a new political force with the potential to independently mobilize millions of people against the corporate establishment and the Right.

Kshama Sawant's re-election in Seattle as an open member of Socialist Alternative shows what is possible. ■



Socialism is International

Socialist Alternative Canada is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), an organization with members in 45 countries around the world. The CWI includes MPs, union leaders, councillors, human rights campaigners and grassroots activists. We are involved in struggles: for better wages and conditions and basic union rights; to protect the environment; for women's rights; and against war, racism and oppression.

Read news and reports from around the world:
www.socialistworld.net/

400,000 Québec Workers on Strike to Defeat Austerity

Sourced from *Alternative Socialiste*, our sister organization in Québec

The Québec government is trying to catch up with the rest of Canada's austerity. Since the Quiet Revolution in the 1960s, Québec has the highest union density (now 39%), the most militant unions and the best public services.

In 2012, the Québec Liberals attacked students and provoked the huge Maple Spring of 2012. With the rightward shift of the Parti Québécois (PQ), the Liberals now felt confident to take on the workers. They faced a huge response: on December 9, the biggest general strike in the history of Québec and Canada!

The Fall Fight

The Liberals' attacks included a meagre 3% pay raise over 5 years (well below an expected 10% inflation), increased teacher-student ratios, raising the retirement age from 60 to 62, increased private subcontracting and more precarious zero hour contracts.

In response, the leaders of Québec's five main union federations formed the Common Front, representing 400,000 of 500,000 public sector workers, to negotiate with the government.

After fruitless summer negotiations, public sector workers voted 85% for strike action. The Common Front held four days of strikes: three days of regional strikes and the December 9 general strike.

Deal or No Deal?

Faced with militant workers in the streets with widespread public support, the Liberals dropped most measures attacking working conditions and union rights. On December 17, the Common Front leadership announced a tentative deal, claiming 9.1% to 10.25% wage increases over 5 years. The leadership wants the deal agreed by the end of January.

However, the claimed pay increase is exaggerated as it includes a one-off signing bonus and funds to equalize pay rates. The actual increase is 5.25% over 5 years, which is less than the rate of inflation. Retirement would still increase by a year.

The 600 delegates of the Federation of Health and Social Services (FSSS) are recommending that their 110,000 members reject the agreement in favour of continued action for better wages and in support of unions who haven't yet reached an agreement.



FSSS Shop Stewards

Members of Alternative Socialiste (AS) are active in the rank-and-file solidarity network, Lutte Commune. Both Lutte Commune and AS are urging rejection of the agreement and continuing actions for a better deal.

Struggle pays off! What's the way forward?

The unions' militant defense of quality public services and the solidarity networks rallied the majority of Quebecers behind the workers. Militant workers kept their leadership fighting at the negotiation tables. The gains made so far would have been impossible without the exceptional mobilization of public sector workers.

Workers have proven that struggle pays off. Now there needs to be debate in the unions on how to continue fighting austerity governments.

The fight would be stronger with a political voice. Most Québec workers used to support the PQ, but now it has an anti-union leadership. Québec Solidaire is the only elected anti-austerity party in Quebec and it supported the workers' struggle. There is an opportunity to build a strong unified left-wing party.

Members of AS are active in the protests and our own unions. AS works to build solidarity and a network of militant union activists. A strong active union movement is vital to fight austerity, defend public services and good jobs. ■



www.alternativesocialiste.org/

A Page from Canadian History **A Liberal Government Destroys a Union** *By Murray Hancock*

The Canadian Seaman's Union (CSU), militant and democratic, was founded in 1936 to end long hours, low pay and horrendous conditions aboard merchant ships. Over 1,100 seafarers lost their lives on the dangerous Atlantic convoys of World War II.

The 1946 strike won an 8 hour workday and other concessions. Shipping owners, wanting revenge, made a deal with the American, mob-affiliated Seafarers International Union (SIU): break the CSU, the contracts are yours.

With this scab support, the employers provoked the 1949 strike; CSU members struck in 26 countries. The shipping companies invited in the SIU, with convicted felon Hal Banks to lead the union. The Liberal government ignored Banks entering Canada illegally.

SIU goons attacked pickets across Canada, assaulting and shooting strikers. The RCMP and local police rather than arresting Banks and his thugs, attacked and arrested the pickets. With the pickets cleared, the SIU sent scabs aboard the ships. The Liberal government helped destroy the CSU. ■



Book Review **Naomi Klein,** **2014**

Naomi Klein outlines global warming's threat to humanity and names the core problem – capitalism. It is capitalism versus the climate. “Our economy is at war with many forms of life on earth including human life.”

2015 was the hottest year on record. The failures of the last 30 years on climate change are because many of the major environmental groups – Big Green – advocate for market based, pro-profit solutions and rely on lobbying politicians and corporations.

Claiming we have to ‘save the planet’ and don't have time for social issues is utterly false. Only united environmental and economic struggles will be strong enough to challenge capitalism. Capitalism exploits

both the planet and people to make profits and uses the ‘jobs versus the environment’ lie to divide the opposition. Solutions do exist. Once freed from capitalism, a program to heal the planet would provide millions of good jobs.

The good news is the growing mass movements of resistance to energy extraction and climate change. Linking activists together can consolidate and spread these struggles. Progressive change has always come from mass movements. ■



Police Arrests on Burnaby Mountain

Stop Kinder Morgan... **Continued from Page 12**

During the election, Trudeau stated that the National Energy Review would be changed from the rubber stamp created by Harper. However, the review is continuing – now! – with the same old flawed system. More worrying is the statement from Kinder Morgan CEO Steve Kean to investors that “confidence is actually growing” that the pipeline will be built and shipping bitumen to Vancouver's harbour in 2019.

The Liberals are close to the energy corporations. The co-chair of their election campaign, Dan Gagnier, had to resign after he was caught advising Energy East on how to influence an incoming Liberal government. Initially, Trudeau defended Gagnier!

To stop the Tar Sands pipelines, campaigns and unions will need to force the Liberals to act on their fine words.

If we had a socialist government that had democratic ownership of the resources and wealth currently controlled by the corporations, we could make a rapid transition to good jobs and clean energy. ■

About Socialist Alternative Canada

What We Stand For

- An end to poverty wages; raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour
- A 35 hour working week without loss of pay
- A living income for those unable to work
- Reverse the cuts and privatization of public services
- Fully funded, high quality, free public education from early childhood to university
- Massive public investment in clean energy, mass transit, health care, education, and affordable housing to create good unionized jobs and fight climate change
- Phase out the tar-sands and nuclear power
- Higher taxes on the rich and corporations, lower taxes for working people
- Democratic unions run by and for the members, with elected union officials paid the same wages as those they represent
- End discrimination – full equality for all
- Equal rights for, and solidarity with, immigrants and refugees
- The right to self-determination and self-government for all Aboriginal peoples, and respect for historical treaties and resource rights
- Scrap NAFTA and other exploitative trade deals
- Democratic public ownership of key sectors of the economy such as: banking, utilities, manufacturing and resources
- A socialist transformation of society to allow for the democratic planning of the economy based on the interests and needs of the overwhelming majority of people and the environment

Full list: socialistalternative.ca/what-we-stand-for

Socialist Alternative Public Meetings Socialism Rising in US Socialist Re-elected in Seattle

Vancouver

Sunday, January 24, 2 pm
Room 1600, SFU Harbour Centre,
515 W Hastings

Toronto

For Details see:

- website: socialistalternative.ca
- or insert

Join Socialist Alternative Canada

If you agree with the ideas in this magazine, join Socialist Alternative.

We are a growing organization, with members from coast to coast. We are active in workplaces, universities and in communities campaigning on the issues raised in this magazine and more.

We fight for every reform, while pointing to the need to end capitalism and its profit-driven destruction of the environment and human well-being. In its place, we work for a democratic and just society that puts the needs of humanity and the planet first. With the diversity and fertility of nature, the endless energy of the sun, and the ingenuity of humans we can build a world without war, hunger, poverty, injustice or environmental destruction.

Such a socialist society would have nothing in common with the former Stalinist dictatorships of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union – socialism is about the full flowering of human democracy and potential. We would see the end of the dictatorship of big business in our society.

SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

Our website has longer versions of many of the articles here and many more articles as well.

To find out more and join:

- Website: socialistalternative.ca/
- E-mail: contact@socialistalternative.ca
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/socialistalternative.canada/

Socialist Alternative Launches Regular Magazine

In an historic step forward, we are launching a regular publication. This follows our successful federal election publication.

If you would like to receive copies of the magazine, contact Socialist Alternative:
contact@socialistalternative.ca

Climate Change After Paris: Now Stop Kinder Morgan and Energy East

By Bill Hopwood



Canada's new Prime Minister Trudeau called the recent Paris climate change agreement "historic, ambitious." Environment Minister McKenna surprised delegates at the conference when she said the agreement should restrict planetary warming to only 1.5 degrees Celsius. It all sounds so different from a few months ago.

Even reaching an agreement was a change compared to the last few conferences on global warming. Yet, is it really the huge success that most politicians and media are claiming?

The actual targets to reduce greenhouse gases are not legally binding. Even if all the targets are fully achieved warming would increase 2.7°C, far above what scientists say is necessary to avoid disaster. In fact Naomi Klein describes the agreement as "extraordinarily dangerous."

The experiences of past agreements to reduce CO₂ releases are not encouraging. The concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere is now higher than at any time in the last 800,000 years. 2015 was the warmest year on record.

Behind the Words

Canada is the eighth largest source of greenhouse gases in the world, and these emissions are increasing. According to the World Resources Institute, Canada has the highest per capita emissions in the world.

The new Liberal government has made fine speeches, but where is the action? Crucial to reducing climate change is stopping the Kinder Morgan and Energy East pipelines.

**INSIDE:
Strikers Rock Québec
Canada After the Election
Trans-Pacific Partnership**